

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE-CHUNG CASE; KOREA-JAPAN RELATIONS

1. RIKG-GOJ NEGOTIATIONS TO SETTLE KIM CASE ARE NOW MOVING TO FINAL STAGE. DURING PAST WEEK, THERE HAVE BEEN INTENSIVE QUIET NEGOTIATIONS ON OFFICIAL LEVEL AS WELL AS INFORMALLY. AMBASSADOR USHIROKU HAS BEEN DEALING WITH FORNMIN KIM. UNOFFICIAL JAPANESE EMISSARY, NHK CHIEF MAEDA, HAD EARLY IN WEEK MET WITH PRIMIN, YI HU-RAK AND OTHER KEY GOVERNMENT FIGURES.

2. ACCORDING USHIROKU, BOTH SIDES HAVE MOVED CLOSER TO AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, MAJOR STICKING POINT IS GOJ INSISTENCE THAT KIM DONG-UN BE TRIED AND CONVICTED. ROKG IS WILLING TO TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION (E.G., FIRING KIM) BUT STILL RELUCTANT TO ACTUALLY CHARGE KIM. USHIROKU SAID GOJ WISHES AMBASSADOR YI HO REMOVED BUT IS WILLING TO LET THIS HAPPEN QUIETLY.

3. USHIROKU SAID GOJ ALSO WANTS PRIMIN KIM TO VISIT JAPAN PERSONALLY TO EXPRESS REGRET FOR INCIDENT, AS WELL AS PUT OFFICIAL STAMP OF APPROVAL ON "PACKAGE" SETTLEMENT EVEN THOUGH SOME PORTIONS OF AGREEMENT WILL BE DELIBERATELY VAGUE. (WE UNDERSTAND FROM PRIMIN'S SECRETARY THAT PRIMIN WOULD PROBABLY BE PREPARED TO PROCEED TO TOKYO IF AGREEMENT
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IS REACHED.)

4. WITH REGARD KIM TAE-CHUNG, FONMIN KIM TOLD USHIROKU AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 26 THAT GOJ SHOULD ACCEPT LITERALLY

KIM TAE-CHUNG'S PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT THAT HE IS NOW FREE FROM HOUSE ARREST. FONMIN KIM ALSO SAID CATEGORICALLY THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG WOULD NOT BE TRIED. AS FOR QUESTION OF FOREIGN TRAVEL, FONMIN KIM TOLD USHIROKU "THE QUESTION HAS NOT COME UP."

5. PRIMIN'S SECRETARY HAN SANG-KU ALSO CONFIRMED THAT, ON ROKG SIDE, HIGH LEVEL MEETINGS ARE NOW IN PROGRESS. WE UNDERSTAND PRIMIN KIM, YI HU-RAK, PRESIDENTIAL CHIEF SECURITY KIM CHONG-YOM, FONMIN AND HOME MINISTER ARE MEETING THIS MORNING AND USHIROKU IS TO MEET WITH FONMIN KIM LATER TODAY. HOWEVER, BOTH USHIROKU AND HAN BELIEVE FINAL STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS WILL PROBABLY BE EARLY NEXT WEEK, NOT THIS WEEKEND.

6. COMMENT: I WILL BE IN PUSAN WITH FONMIN KIM AND USHIROKU THIS WEEKEND AND EXPECT FULL READOUT. I ALSO HAVE APPOINTMENT WITH PRIME MINISTER ON OCTOBER 29. IT IS CLEAR BOTH SIDES BELIEVE THEY ARE MOVING CLOSER TO COMPROMISE AGREEMENT, WITH KOREANS STILL TRYING TO EVADE THE APPEARANCE OF ADMISSION OF OFFICIAL CULPABILITY. IT IS ALSO CLEAR THAT ROKG'S ACTION IN SURFACING KIM TAE-CHUNG FOR THE PRESENT IS DESIGNED TO APPEASE JAPANESE AND TO GIVE TANAKA AMMUNITION TO MUTE CRITICS. OUR OWN ROLE CONTINUES TO BE TO URGE MOVEMENT TOWARD EACH OTHER AND EXPRESS OUR CONSTANT INTEREST IN EARLY SOLUTION.
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